

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 RSR-01

/101 W

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R 280345 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3476

UNCLAS TOKYO 5241

E. O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, JA

SUBJECT: SPRING STRUGGLE STRIKES HALTED

REF: TOKYO 5234

SUMMARY: WITH WAGE SETTLEMENT IN PRIVATE RAILWAYS AND BROAD AGREEMENT BETWEEN LABOR AND GOJ ON POLITICAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC SECTOR SPRING STRUGGLE, STRIKES HAVE BEEN CALLED OFF. TRAINS RUNNING AGAIN BUT SEVERAL DAYS REQUIRED BEFORE SERVICE BACK TO NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

1. SOHYO DOMINATED SPRING LABOR OFFENSIVE CENTERED ON ECONOMIC ISSUE OF WAGE INCREASES AND POLITICAL ISSUE OF STRIKE RIGHT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES. AS TRANSPORT STRIKES REPORTED IN REF REACHED PEAK APRIL 27, GOJ AND LABOR'S JOINT STRUGGLE COMMITTEE AGREED TO DEFUSE POLITICAL ISSUE WHEN GOJ PROMISED TO RESPECT ADVICE OF BOTH ILO AND OF JAPANESE TRIPARTITE COUNCIL (LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC MEMBERS). GOJ ALSO GAVE BROAD PROMISE TO WORK TOWARDS QTE NORMALIZATION OF LABOR- MANAGEMENT RELATIONS UNQTE.

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2. BASIS FOR SETTLING WAGE INCREASE ISSUE IN PUBLIC

SECTOR PROVIDED WHEN ALSO ON APRIL 27 PRIVATE RR WORKERS UNION ( SHITETSU) AND MAJOR RR COMPANIES ACCEPTED 19.25 PERCENT AVERAGE BASE WAGE INCREASE (55 DOLLARS PER MONTH) AS RECOMMENDED BY CENTRAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION MEDIATING THAT DISPUTE. SETTLEMENT EXPECTED TO ESTABLISHED PATTERN FOR JNR UNION WAGE BOOSTS AND INDIRECTLY OTHERS IN PUBLIC SECTOR.

3. WITH POLITICAL ISSUE RESOLVED, IF ONLY TEMPORARILY, AND EXPECTATION OF SATISFACTORY WAGE INCREASES REFLECTING SHITETSU SETTLEMENT, JOINT STRUGGLE COMMITTEE ISSUED STOP- STRIKE ORDERS TO 173 UNIONS INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH PRIVATE RR SERVICE RETURNED TO NORMAL BY EVENING APRIL 27, JNR TRAINS MAY NOT ALL RESUME SCHEDULES BEFORE MAY ONE.

4. COMMENT: GENERAL PUBLIC REACTION TO END OF STRIKE APPEARS TO BE RELIEF THAT CRIPPLING TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGE HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO RUN ITS FULL SCHEDULED COURSE. ACCORDING TO MANY OBSERVERS, GOJ AND UNIONS ARE ALSO RELIEVED THAT SETTLEMENT ACHIEVED AFTER ONLY ONE DAY SINCE 72- HOUR STRIKE WOULD HAVE CREATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR BOTH SIDES. SETTLEMENT WAS ACHIEVED ON BASIS OF FORMULA WHICH PERMITS EACH SIDE TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR EARLY ENDING OF STRIKE WITHOUT SACRIFICE OF BASIC PRINCIPLE.  
SHOESMITH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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